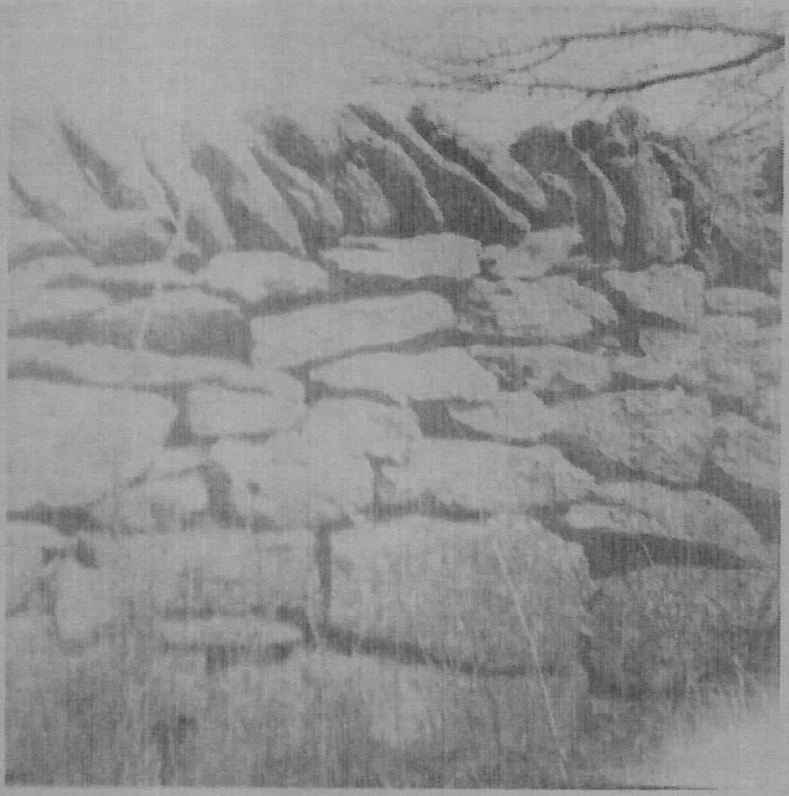
IN THE BEGINNING



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Published Quarterly By
Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas
Vol. 8 - No. 31

IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 8 - No. 31 July, 1975

Lester A. Harding-Editor

Editor's Notes —

The April, 1975, issue of "In The Beginning" has had more copies go out in a seemingly short time than any other issue since the first publication. It was of course an all Yates Center issue, as will most of this issue be. We will get back to the regular issues in October.

* * * * *

The Centennial Book will be off the press possibly by the time this is. It will be a 100 page with many pictures and cover many subjects. It will sell for $5.00 a copy.

Mrs. Fran Davis and her committee have spent many hours in getting this book together.

* * * * *

The Woodson County Historical Museum was opened for three days over the Memorial Day Weekend, with a good number visiting it each day.

* * * * *

The celebration of 100 years of existance for the city of Yates Center was officially opened during Memorial Day festivities Monday, May 26, 1975, by Yates Center Mayor Robert Morton. Mayor Morton opened the celebration by placing a wreath on the grave of Abner Yates and his wife Mary, founders of the City of Yates Center.

In placing the wreath on the grave, Mayor Morton proclaimed the official opening of the Yates Center Centennial. His proclamation is as follows.

WHEREAS the Yates Center townsite was founded by Abner Yates on August 18th, 1875 and was later incorporated on the 4th day of March 1884; and because of its central location was established the county seat of Woodson County.

NOW THEREFORE, I Robert Morton do hereby proclaim this May 26, 1975 as the beginning of this Centennial year for Yates Center and urge all individuals, private organizations and public agencies to join with us in this celebration to honor the City of Yates Center.

IN THE BEGINNING
Published Quarterly By
Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas

$2.50 per year 65 cents a copy

WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Organized March, 1965

The March meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society was held on Tuesday evening, the 25th, at the Hotel Woodson Dining Room. There were 47 present for the fine dinner. After some group singing, Mrs. Doris Cantrall and Mrs. Harriet Creagor, both leaders in the Wilson County Historical Society, and co-directors of the Historical Museum at Fredonia, told about some of the interesting highlights of their work in the museum.

* * * *

The Woodson Co. Historical Museum was open the three days over the three day holiday weekend.

The Museum was then closed for awhile for some inside work on the main room. Incidently this main part of the Museum was started just 98 years ago, as we found in the Vol. 1, No. 1, issue of "The News" published Friday, June 8, 1877. The article states; "The new stone church being erected in the south part of town by the Christian denomination of this place is nearing completion. It will be a valuable improvement to the town."

* * * * *

IN MEMORIAN

Clarence W. Daly 62 February 20, 1975

Mr. Daly was born in Woodson Co. and had spent most of his life here. He held a Life Membership in the Woodson County Historical Society.

* * * * *

The May meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society was held in the Woodson Hotel on Tuesday evening, the 27th.

A short Memorial program was held for the two members that we have lost during the past year. They were Mrs. Jessie McKinsey and Clarence W. Daly. Virgil Winfrey had charge of this program.

There were 58 present for this meeting. Several visitors were present, including four from California.

Walter Smith from rural Iola and his accomplice gave a fine program of songs and their origin.

Join and Support
Woodson County Historical Society

Life Membership $25.00 Regular Membership $2.00 a Year

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO —

Some of our readers may well be surprised to learn that a hundred years ago the most discussed topic of conversation and editorials of a local newspaper were mostly about the relief for poor and destitute people of the county.

However the main articles seemed to deal with the fact that although many would need help or leave the county, most did not want the relief to come from back East, as that would give the county and state a bad name, but for each county to take care of its own. As there were no welfare nor any poor house of any kind. The really poor or destitute people were taken care of by the trustees of each township getting bids for their care.

Our source of information about 100 years ago comes from the files of the Woodson County Post, published by W. W. Sain at Neosho Falls. Editor Sain seemed to be rather "salty" in some of his editorials, but in others he showed a great deal of humor as we may see as we follow his writings. One thing he did take seriously was his politics.

* * * * *

Woodson County Post, Neosho Falls, Kans. January 13, 1875.

R. D. Webster and I. S. Landes, from Kalida, called on us yesterday. From the latter we learned that they are having some trouble over school matters at Kalida and that a school meeting has been called to fix up the difficulty.

Defiance, January 11, 1875-County Superintendent Notice.

On and after this date until further notice my office will be at Defiance, Court House to which all communications intended for me should be addressed. For the convenience of parties desiring to see me personally on a business connected with the office, I will be at Defiance on Saturday each week.A. F. Palmer, County Supt.

R.D. Webster and David Reynolds were appointed to assist the Probate Judge in examining the treasury the present quarter.

One hundred and 20 jurors were selected for 1875.

January 20 —

The trustee of Liberty township, Mr. Henry Trueblood points with pride to the fact that his township pays about as much taxes as any township in the county, there has been but $27 paid out of the county for temporary relief to the poor of the township. It is no fault of the people of that part of the county that they raised no crop last year. The drought and chinch bugs led it all to waste and many left with nothing to help themselves.

"We were invariably told that while it is true that very little was raised by anyone on the high prairies last year and that the people were generally poor no one could (or would) tell of a single instance where outside help would be required. Woodson County needs no outside assistance for her poor.

January 27, 1875-Relief meeting at Kalida —

"On Saturday a general county-wide meeting was called to discuss the question of relief for the poor and destitute of Woodson County. Messrs' Haughawout of Neosho Falls, Baker of Belmont and Miller of Toronto, favored dissolution of the Relief Committee and letting the destitute be supplied through the proper channel-the township trustees and County Commissioners. The township trustees were instructed to spend all of their time actually necessary to look after the cases of destitute, relieve all cases of actual distress and allow no one to suffer and sell their last cow.

* * * * *

While the Editor of the past mentioned the drought and chinch bugs as being the cause of no crops the year before, the year of 1874 was known as the "grasshopper" Year, as the files of the Woodson County Post of 1874 tell.

August 26-The Grasshoppers are here in quantities to suit almost anyone. They made their debut last Saturday afternoon and if their object was to create a sensation their first appearance was a success. We are unable to determine probable extent of damage they will do, but from the business talent they have already developed we think it safe to say that the peach crop will be entirely destroyed.

"Quite a whirlwind came across town Monday about noon and whirled grasshoppers, corn stalks, clothes and other light movables."

"Corn knives were in good demand Monday. Ben Everett and Cap. Haughawout had their corn already cut and ready for grasshoppers. They have about 2,000 shalks of good fodder.

"The cheerful and business-like grasshoppers roost on the fences about sunset and make mouths at the innocent passersby.

"We trust that the grasshoppers will soon eat everything up and leave in time to sow wheat."

"Charley Graves got scared at the grasshoppers and rushed off to his fathers to can a few peaches before they are all gone.

September 2 —

"The grasshoppers are taking everything green in the county. They commenced on one of our attorneys last week. He has taken to cover.

Liberty-No political excitement, but grasshoppers! GRASSHOPPERS is the cry!

Rose-Sept. 14—

Plenty of rain. The grasshoppers are nearly all gone.

Eminence and Perry townships are to lose a lot of their citizens. Moving back East and North. The cause—chinch bugs and grasshoppers.

Grasshoppers have deserted the Turkey Creek region.

D.R. Herdman is shipping grasshoppers to Illinois.

* * * * *

NOW BACK TO 1875 —

Woodson County Post, Neosho Falls, Ks. February 3. —

"A Relief meeting was held at Defiance to determine the number of destitute persons in the county. The following number of persons listed by the nine townships were given by W. J. Haughawout, county treasurer.

Neosho Falls	- 39	Owl Creek	- 50
Perry	- 17	Eminence	- 32
Center	- 29	Belmont	- 56
Toronto	- 40	Everett	- 68

Liberty - 68 (The Liberty list included also what is now North township.)

"This embraces only those in need to immediate assistance and does not include those who will require seed and feed in order to get crops in next spring.

* * * * *

March 3, A.D. 1875 —

Our farmers will be compelled to work at the spring crops very slowly, as we see most of their horses very poor, but few of them having grain to feed. But they will consequently have to begin early and put in their crops as their teams can stand it.

"A meeting was held in the court house at Defiance, Monday night to consider the action of A. B. Mann in changing the name of Toronto. Henry Smith of Humboldt was elected as chairman and J. A. Freer, of Defiance as Secretary.

A resolution was passed to stop action on changing the name and requesting the Governor to veto any such action.

* * * * *

"Colonel Parsons and Doc Williams went out one day last week and killed four swans and two snow geese. The snow goose is a rare bird in this part of the country, and we're informed these are the second killed in this country in 18 years.

"County Jail - We have heard a great many men lately talk of the necessity of a county jail-this county. That it would be a great saving to the county to have a place to keep prisoners who are held for different purposes.

We have to pay from four to six dollars a day to guard a prisoner who is held here in the county, and the county has already paid out enough money in this way to build a good and substantial jail and yet we have no place to keep a prisoner. (Woodson County had been organized for around 18 years and apparently no jail had ever been build in three different county seats.)

March 24, 1875 —

"Local markets corrected every Tuesday by J. Bishop.

XX flour (per 100) - 2.50	Coffee 25 to 30
XXX flour (per 100) - 2.90	Sugar 10 to 15
Choice Family Flour - 3.20	Tea 40 - 1.25
Prints - 8 to 10	Lard - 15
Brown Cotton - 7 1/2 to 15	Salt (barrel) 2.75 - 3.00
Bleached Cotton - 8 to 20	Soda - 10
Ticking - 15 to 35	Vinegar - 40
Checks - 15 to 35	Canned goods 25 - 35
Sp. wheat-bu. - 60 - 80	Crackers 10 - 15
Fall wheat-bu. 75 - 1.00	Syrup 80 - 1.00
Corn - 75	Dried apples - 12 1/2
Butter - 15	Dried peaches - 10
Eggs - 20	

* * * * *

"Persons rendered destitute by the ravages of the grasshoppers during the summer last past can get Government aid by applying to the township trustee.

"Persons going to jail hereafter must not expect to live on the fat of the land as the sheriff is allowed only 40 cents for boarding prisoners. Hardtack and bacon will probably be the chief luxuries.

"A couple of bachelors on Duck Creek say they want aid. They do not propose to be left out in the cold any longer. They each want an old maid to help them share their sorrows, and yet they have no joys to divide. Sweet is one of them, and if any sour old maid wants to be sweetened that is the place to go. (A man named Sweet lived on the upper part of Duck Creek.)

March 26, 1975 - From Owl Creek

Yesterday we had rather a disastrous fire. It began on Cedar Creek, and as a strong south west was blowing, it soon swept on Mr. Smith's farm on main Owl, where it found plenty of food in the timber; then on to Captain Allen's but he and his sons succeeded in preserving everything. It then reached Mr. Butler's, burning his hay and a mile of

fencing. Captain Mereweather's hay also went and Mr. Cooper lost all the hay on Mr. Phillips farm. It is the worst fire we have had for years.

A destructive fire got away with 100 tons of hay for Frank Butler, about 15 tons for Capt. Mereweather. The fire ran through and destroyed a lot of young timber for Abe Smith. (This is the part of Owl Creek just to the north and west of Yates.)

April 14, 1875

"At the examinations held at Defiance on the 27th, 57 teachers applied for certificates, of whom 6 obtained first grade, 10 obtained second grade, 27 obtained third grade and 14 failed to answer sufficient number of questions to entitle them to any certificate at all.

"The new change in the mail routes through this county gives Defiance, Kalida and Belmont their mail on Friday instead of Thursday.

May 5 —

"We are sorry to note the fact that apple crop is likely to be very light in Woodson County this year. When the grasshoppers came last fall, they ate the leaves off the trees, which put on a new growth and bloomed. Hence their failure to bloom this spring. Peaches are all right yet in this locality.

"Nat Chambers and Sam Naylor of Liberty township, were down this week and say they want a cheese factory on Turkey Creek and that they can raise 500 cows if some responsible man will run a factory there. It is an excellent neighborhood and is about the best grazing district in the county.

"The city marshall of Wichita telegraphed to Sheriff Cozine that he had Stewart's horses and the thieves in custody. Cozine and Stewart's son started for Wichita today armed with the proper warrant.

"Billy Cozine got back safely with his prisoners from Wichita. Their names are Thomas Cook and Charley Gladfelter. They were brought before Esquire Baldwin who held them in one thousand dollar bonds to appear on the 10th.

"It costs 60 cents a day to board a prisoner at Iola while it requires 2 or 3 guards at $2 a day, besides board of a prisoner to keep him on the streets. We ask the powers that be, which is the cheapest.

May 19 —

"Justice Baldwin gave his decision in the preliminary examination of Thomas Cook, which was to the effect that he deemed the evidence insufficient to warrant him in binding the accused over. He was discharged.

FRANK OR FRANCIS BUTLER —

While perhaps very few of our readers ever heard of this man, we believe that the story of Yates Center would not be complete without something about him and his family.

We would not want our readers to confuse this Frank Butler with his nephew Frank W. Butler, who was a well known druggist in Yates Center and was known as Major Butler.

Frank Butler was born at Martinsville, Indiana. He had two brothers, Charles and William. Also two sisters, Eveline who married James G. Cox, and Hannah who married Charles Puffer.

Frank Butler along with his brothers Charles and William were veterans of the Civil War. Frank was a corporal with Co. K, 5th Artillery, (Indiana), and was wounded at the Battle of Antietan.

On August 27, 1867 Frank Butler was married to Miss Geneva Jane Van Dolah, who was a native of Lexington, Illinois. Two years later, in the spring of 1869, they in company with Charles Butler, came to LeRoy, Kansas. Here the brothers started and operated the Butler Bros. Store in LeRoy.

The Butlers all lived at LeRoy for around three or four years. They also began to deal in livestock, and in 1872 moved to a ranch along Owl Creek about 2 1/2 miles to the northwest of the present Yates Center. Walter Depew a nephew of the Butlers had come to Kansas in the fall of 1869 and worked in the toy department of the Butler Bros. Store. Depew came to the Butler Ranch as a bookkeeper. The Ranch included all of section 4, Twp. 25, R. 15, on which the house and buildings were located. It may have included more. The raising and feeding of hogs was one of the chores of this ranch.

Frank Butler came to Woodson County in time to get in on the ground floor of the county seat elections. He became a very good friend of Abner Yates, and worked hard to get the county seat in the center of the county. In fact Abner Yates wanted to call the new town Butler in honor of Frank Butler, but Butler along with some of their friends persuaded Yates the town should be named for him.

In the November, 1873 election, so the story goes an independent ticket was selected the night before the election, and was known as "The Midnight Ticket", and was in a measure successful. Frank Butler, democrat was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives from Woodson County.

However, Mr. Butler did not get to see the city that he had worked for so hard become an incorporated city as he died in February, 1882, and was buried in LeRoy.

Frank and Geneva Jane Butler were parents of six children, James D., who died in infancy; Mary Evaline, who married Clarence Thourogham; Nancy Bell, who was married to Clarence Daymude; Sarah who died in infancy, Daisy Mabel, who married Bish Eades, and Charles who died very young.

In July, 1885, Mrs. Geneva Butler was married to Frank Cannady, which will make an entire story in itself.

* * * * *

Charles B. Butler, was born in Martinsville, Indiana, in 1939. He was a lawyer by profession, and at the beginning of the Civil War, enlisted in the Wisconsin Volunteers and held the rank of Lieutenant. He was also wounded in battle.

Following the war he was married to Miss Ann Depew. As far as we know they just had one child, Frank W. Butler. He was born at Bloomington, Illinois, July 31, 1868. When he was about a year old, with his parents, came to LeRoy, Kansas.

Sometime in the forepart of 1876, Charles B. Butler went to Colorado, for his health. In August, 1876, Charles died. Evidently after the death of her husband, Mrs. Butler went back to Illinois. After her death in 1882, Frank W. Butler came back to Yates Center, where he was one of the early graduates of the Yates Center High School. He also attended Baker University and Kansas University.

In 1898 Frank W. started in the drug business and operated a drug store. (Butler's Pharmacy) in Yates Center until 1925. He was elected Senator of the Allen-Woodson district, 1921 to 1923. He was Captain in the Kansas National Guards 1899 to 1902, then advanced to rank of Major. He saw service in the Mexican War in 1916.

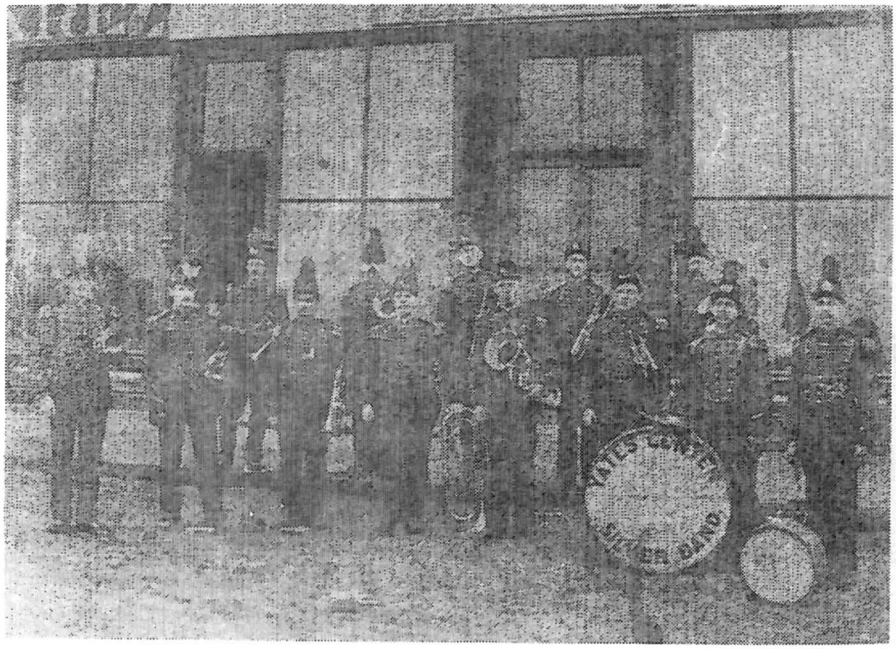
During World War I, he served as Major in 137th Infantry, 354th Infantry, and 103rd Infantry in France.

Frank W. Butler was married to Stella May Ruggles on March 3, 1892. After her death in 1914, he was married to Grace Clark Lane. Frank W. and both of his wives are buried in the Yates Center Cemetery.

Charles B. Butler was elected as Senator from Coffey and Woodson Counties in 1872. At the same time his brother-in-law Charles Puffer was elected as State Representative from Coffey County.

* * * * *

The building in which Frank W. Butler carried on his pharmacy business was one of those that was destroyed by fire May 3, 1975. It was known for quite a few years as the Baker Rexall Drug Store.



Yates Center Silver Band

It is thought that this picture was taken around 1890. The band players left to right are: A. A. Swope, Will Chellis, C. S. Jones, Ed Brown, Ed Whechen, James Vaughn, George Lewis, Frank Butler, Hod Scoville, Jake Taylor, Ed Hunt, Walter Depew and A. A. Wille.

* * * * *

Some of the players, including Walter Depew were in the first band organized in Yates Center. That was in 1876. A man from Humboldt was leader of that band, which did its practicing in the upstairs part of the old Walter Depew store building. In the Memoirs of Mrs. J. Walter Depew she tells of this first band.

"The first village band organized by Dick Redfield of Humboldt, used the hall above our store for practicing, many were the evenings they spent in diligent practice, and their bow to the public was made by throwing open all the windows and doors and pouring out the lilting strands of the Jennie Lind Polka. Walter's part in the band was that of the tuba player."

"For some of the dances, Mr. A. F. Palmer and I furnished the music. He played the violin to my accompaniment on the organ."

These memoirs or recollections of Mrs. Depew contain much of the early day happenings of this area.

100 YEARS AGO —

Taken from the Woodson County Post, published at Neosho Falls, August 11, 1875 -

"Mr. and Mrs. John Freer of Defiance called to see us Monday. They report the county seat as being very quiet, no howl being made on the matter."

"Last week the following gentlemen from Jacksonville, Illinois, arrived at the city; Abner Yates, Willie H. Yates, Dr. F. W. Phillips, R. M. Phillips, Wm. J. Rutledge, Wm. S. Rutledge, D. A. Lacy, and A. G. Short. Mr. Yates is owner of a large tract of land in this county which he has owned for eight or nine years. The other gentlemen seem to be well pleased with Kansas."

Sheriff's Proclamation
State of Kansas
Woodson County

Know ye that in accordance with an order of the County Commissioners of Woodson County, State of Kansas, dated July 9, 1875 and by virtue of the power invested in me by law; I, W. A. Cozine, sheriff of Woodson County, State of Kansas, do hereby proclaim that a special election will be held in the several voting precincts of said county at the usual place of voting on Wednesday, August 18, 1875, for the relocation of the county seat of Woodson County, State of Kansas. The ballot will be headed: For the county seat, followed by the name of place which the elector desires to cast his vote. Said election shall be held and conducted and returns made as provided in the general election laws of the state of Kansas.

In witness thereof I have hereunto set my hand officially at my office at Defiance in said county, this 9th day of July, 1875."

The county commissioners were: S. Michener, Chairman; L. G. Porter, W. P. Stephenson.

Kalida Locals - Shot on the Wing —

Isaac S. Landes of Kalida has a 32 acre field of Hungarian grass which he was putting up in nice style. He was just putting the last of it in cock when we were there. It was the prettiest hay field we have seen in Kansas.

"James Wolfer was just moving his drugstore out of Langes Hall, so that the hall could be moved to the county seat, Yates Center."

"The happiest man we heard of in that part of the county is the man that sold the old building which is to go to Yates Center and well may he be."

(The Shot on the Wing items were evidently written by W. W. Sain, editor of the Post, at Neosho Falls.)

Different stories and articles about Yates Center and Woodson County taken from different newspapers and County histories do not always agree on the dates.

The election for relocation of the county seat was held on August 18, 1875, and supposed to be recorded on August 20, 1875. However this vote was not recorded by the Editor of the Post and he mentioned it by various items in the newspaper. And the town of Defiance evidently did not believe the results either as they ran the following ad in the Post.

"DEFIANCE, the county seat of Woodson County on Main Owl Creek.

It is beautifully located in the healthful portion of the county. Water in abundance at all seasons.

Lots will be given to anyone erecting new buildings thereon. For particulars address D. Phillips, Defiance, Kans.

* * * * *

Andreas History of Kansas, records the vote on the 18th of August as follows. Defiance 235-Neosho Falls 301 and Yates Center 335.

On August 21st, 1875, the Board of County Commissioners met at the courthouse in Defiance for the purpose of canvassing the votes at the Special election on 18th of August for the relocation of the county seat. Board members present, Samuel Michner, chairman; W. P. Stephenson and S. G. Porter. I. N. Holloway, county clerk.

GREETINGS —

You are hereby notified and warned that David Reynolds plaintiff has this day duly obtained an order of "Injunction" in an action pending in the District Court within and for said County of Woodson, wherein he is plaintiff and you the said Board of County Commissioners are defendents and has given an undertaking according to law. This is therefor to command you to proceed no further under the petition and order made which a special election for the relocation of the county seat of Woodson County was ordered by said Board of County Commissioners of Woodson County at the July session of said board, A. D. 1875. Until a final hearing of said cause be had in said District Court, and you will in no ways omit under the penalty of the law.

Given under my hand and seal of said court this 21st day of August, 1875. George Carpenter, Clerk of District Court.

* * * * *

"The Board therefore adjourned until such time as it may be required by law to meet and canvass the returns of said election."

The above "Greetings" was delivered by David Phillips, Deputy Sheriff.

Other news of 100 years ago, gleaned from the Woodson County Post at Neosho Falls.

"Frank Butler and Peter Bell went through town Monday evening. They were on county seat business and did not stop long."

"George Wille and James Wolfer have moved their stores to the new city. (From Kalida).

September 6, 1875-From the Iola Register —

"At the county seat election in Woodson County on 25th of August, there were 872 votes poled. Yates Center received 336, Neosho Falls 300, and Defiance 236. As neither of the above points received a majority of votes another election was held last Tuesday."

To which the Editor of the Post replied - "Not so! The votes have not been canvassed. The County Commissioners have been served with an injunction, a mandamus, a reinjuction and we heard one man say they would be served with a writ of Habeas Corpus."

* * * * *

Woodson County Post, September 15, 1875 —

"We learn from the Humboldt Union that R. Orth, one of Owl Creek's best citizens is building a new house 28x38, two stories high." (This house made of native stone is still standing, owned and occupied by a grandson Glen Orth.)

"We hear complaints of someone shooting or otherwise injuring stock. One ox came into town a few evenings ago with a pitchfork sticking into it. If a man injures stock he should be put in a place where he can be looked after."

September 29 —

"Abe Woodruff found a silver watch and a pocketbook containing a small amount of money under the floor of a house he was moving on Main street, in Neosho Falls."

"Born-Wednesday, Sept. 29, 1875, to Mr. and Mrs. A. Hamilton, a son. May he live long, be prosperous and die a Republican. (Note-Alex Hamilton, the father was a staunch Democrat, while the Editor was a staunch Republican.)

* * * * *

The Board of County Commissioners again found themselves in "hot water", as on September 6, 1875, when they met they received another "Greetings."

"On this 6th day of September, 1875, at 10 o'clock a.m. the Board was served with an alternative writ of Mandamus, issued by the Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of Kansas, and allowed by D. M. Valentine one of the Associate Justices of said court commanding the Board to canvass the votes of the election held on the 18th day of August, 1875, cast for the relocation of County seat, or appear at Topeka on the 17th day of this month and show cause why they have not done as commanded and then and there return this writ.

And afterwards to wit-at 3 p.m. of this day the Board was sued with an injunction and order of injunction, notifying the Board they had been sued by David Phillips and commanding them to refrain from canvassing said votes until said case was heard and determined in District Court of Woodson County.

Now therefor it is by the Board of County Commissioners ordered and determined that they answer the alternative writ and the County Attorney is hereby ordered to appear at Topeka, on the 17th day of September, 1875 and answer said writ and County Treasurer is hereby ordered to furnish him money sufficient to pay expense of said trip. (W. H. Stares was County Attorney.)

* * * * *

No more about this election was found in the Court Commissioner's notes until September, 1876. As follows-County Clerk's office, Defiance, September 4, 1876.

Board of County Commissioners on call of the Chairman, met in a special session for the purpose of canvassing the votes cast at the special election for the relocation of the County Seat of said county held on the 18th day of August, 1875. Present were: Commissioners, S. Michener, L. G. Porter, T. J. Eagle, County Clerk, I. N. Hollway, and J. E. Pickett, County Attorney.

And it appearing to the satisfaction of the Board that the poll books of the several voting precincts of the county were stolen from the office of the County Clerk on the night of the 1st day of September, 1876. Also that the duplicate poll books returned by several Township Trustees were also stolen on the same night, the Board determines to proceed to canvass the vote shown by the ballots cast at said election, said ballots being deposited in the office of the County Clerk as required by law.

The result of said canvass the Board finds that at said election the towns of Yates Center, Defiance and city of Neosho Falls were voted on for County Seat of said county and that said places received the following number of votes respectively to-wit: The town of Yates Center received 335 votes-City of Neosho Falls 301 and town of Defiance 235 votes. And no place having a majority of all votes cast at said election, it is hereby ordered that a second election for the relocation of the County Seat of Woodson County be held on the 12th day of September, 1876 at which voting shall be confined to Yates Center and Neosho Falls the places receiving the highest number of votes.

EAST END OF THE NORTH SIDE OF THE SQUARE - 1882 —

While the wording on the picture only mention the store of Thos. Lamborn, we will mention the others also. Thos. Lamborn had operated a store before this time, but was forced to quit because of too much credit. He was able to make an agreement with his creditors and resume business.

Lamborn purchased the hardware store from A. L. Freeman. The building to the left of the lamborn store has the name of "Mrs. Freeman, Milliner." And to the left of that was the J. M. Wolfer-Drugs.

Other merchants on the north side of the public square in 1882 were S. Johnson, Furniture Dealer and Undertaker, north corner of the square.

Alec McDaniel, manufacturer of and dealer in Harness and Saddlery Shop on north side of public square.

L. W. Daniel's Barber Shop, north side of square. Shop closes promptly at 10 a.m. Sundays. All work cash and no dead beats tolerated.

The Yates Center News, Geo. E. Faler, Editor-was also on the north side of the square at the time.

New Livery Stable, Joel Wilder, Propriator, northwest corner of the square. Having recently opened out in his new barn, is now able to furnish good rigs at reasonable rates. Commercial Patronage Solicited.

YATES CENTER NEWS - February 20, 1883 —

Last Friday a serious accident occurred at the Todeman ford on Owl Creek 2 miles east of Yates Center. Mr. Brown and family were moving from Linn County to Greenwood Co. and on arriving at the ford undertook to cross with two teams of horses they were driving, but found the water deeper than they anticipated, and before they could retrace their steps found the wagon bed beginning to float and the teams struggling in the water. They called for help and were answered by Messrs' Johnson and Wright two gentlemen who were engaged on the railroad tank a short distance from the accident, who went and found all in the water, struggling for life and by desperate efforts the family, father, mother, and four little children were taken out alive, but before the teams could be reached they were drowned and floated under a large drift. The family were all taken to Mr. Harder's where they received all possible care.

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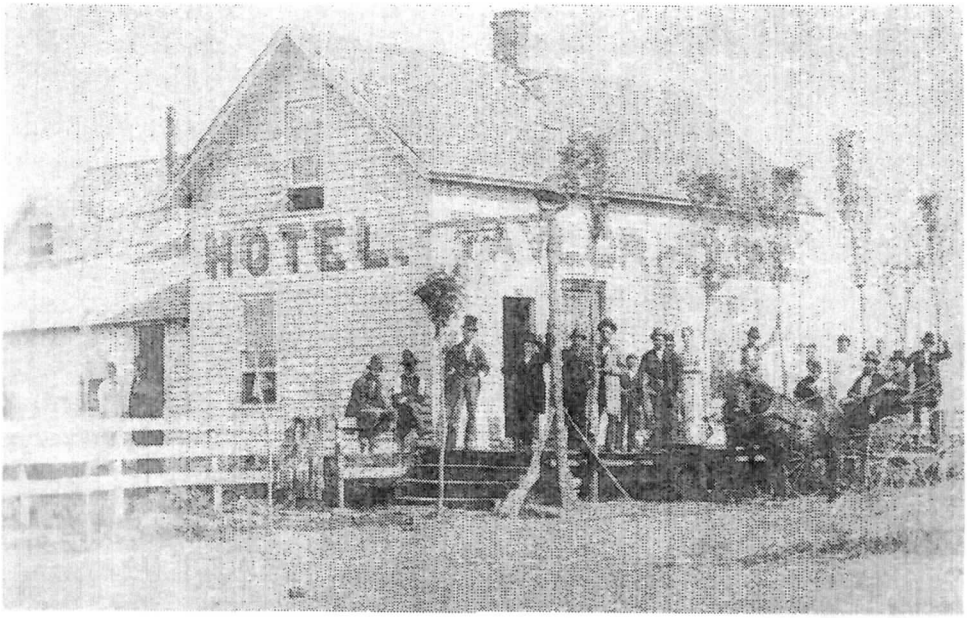


Taylor House - W. P. Taylor, Proprietor, Yates Center. (Located where the Swope and Son Implement Co. is.)

Large sample rooms for commercial travelers and custom solicited. Table always supplied with the best the market affords. This popular House has been lately remodeled and enlarged. Ten new rooms being added, and has been newly furnished throughout.

THE V. V. I. & W. RAILROAD —

In 1885, Abner Yates gave a right-of-way to the Verdigris Valley, Independence and Western Railway to pass through the west part of Yates Center. The railroad was coming from LeRoy through Vernon in a beeline towards Yates Center, and crossing Owl Creek then skirting around the bluff to the southwest, cutting across a corner of the Yates Center Cemetery going across what is now US 75 to the west edge of where the Woodson County Co-op is now located. Here it had to cross the St. Louis, Ft. Scott and Western that ran east and west through the town.

This new railroad went out around the town and then east and south and toward Rose. Some disagreement came up over the crossing the present track. Some contractor with a crew went in one night cut the track and fixed a switch so trains could run on both tracks.

This required the building of another depot. A new depot was built on the southeast part of the railroad crossing, and could be reached by both railroads. The platform went to the east and up against a new eating house and hotel, known at that time as Auntie Doyle's eating house. These were on the north side of West Rutledge St. On the south side of the street was a freight depot, and on the corner directly across from Auntie Doyle's was the Weckerly Hotel, which was also a popular eating place.

The first depot that was built was moved to the new site and used as a freight building. Auntie Doyle married a railroad conductor named Conway. The small hotel and eating house became the Conway House.

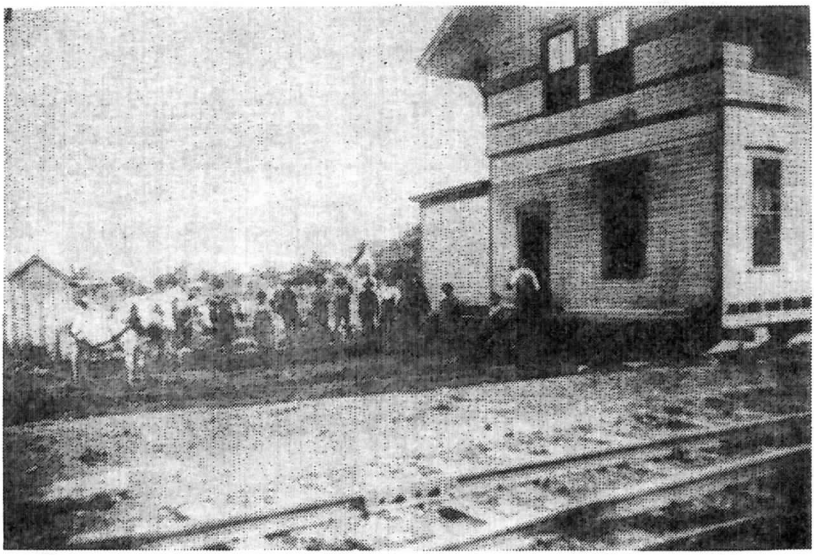
* * * * *

Both of these railroads were taken over by the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company. The railroad coming in from the northeast seemed to have difficulty in climbing the hill to get into the west side of Yates Center. Sometime around 1900, a new road was surveyed for a cutoff to by-pass Yates Center and go on south to Rose.

Around 1910, another depot was built at the present location. This meant the disbanding of the old depot and freight offices. A new hotel was also built, and ran by the Van Noy system.

The new railway station of Durand had made its appearance about two miles east of Yates Center where the new railroad was being built. Weckerly, moved his place of business to Durand.

Auntie Doyle Conway whose place of business was very popular for the railroad men also left. The picture on following page is of a group of men and horses moving the Conway House or hotel to another location.



The old Conway House being moved to a new location

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WOODSON COUNTY DEMOCRAT 8 E. V. Wharton, Editor-Sept. 12, 1884 —

The Bon Ton - Culbertson & Ellis Proprietors. Try a 15 cents lunch at the Bon Ton - Smoke Hand Made Cigars, Shake Lemonade at the Bon Ton - Buy your peaches at Bon Ton. Warm meals and lunch all hours at Bon Ton - That 15 cents lunch at the Bon Ton is immense - 150 lbs. new ice cream at Bon Ton - Go to Bon Ton for choice fruits - Pure Ky. Crab Cider at the Bon Ton.

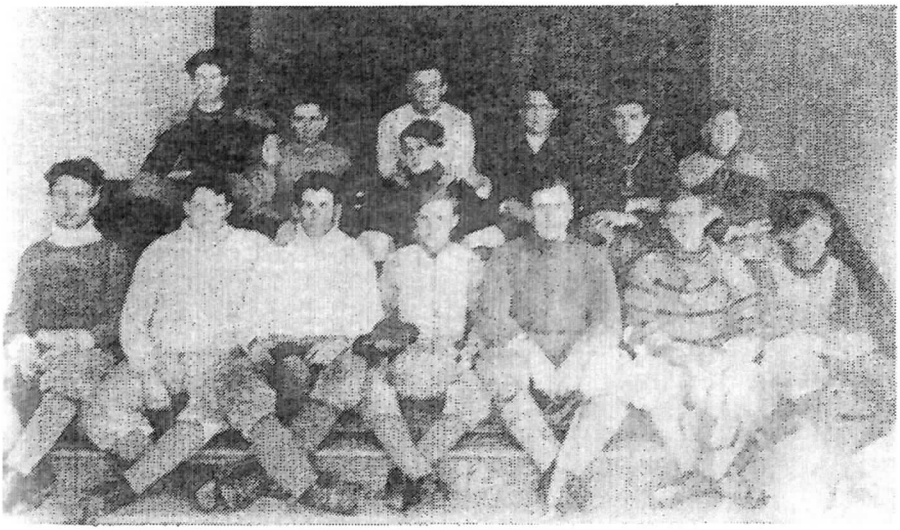
The Bon Ton is now turning out just as fine bread as any bakery in the state and the reason is very plain, because they have in the person of Mr. Henry Stuart one of the best bakers and confectioners in the state. Our people have no cause to send abroad for bread when they can procure the best at home.

Wanted - Prairie Chickens

Commencing Monday, the 1st day of September, we will pay the highest market price for prairie chickens delivered at our place of business. Bon Ton - east side of square.

* * * * *

Later the Bon Ton was moved to west of the Woodson Hotel and operated by F. M. Bell)



The Yates Center High School Football team of 1906. Players are front row - Earl Patterson, Junior Hosick, Charles Naylor, Lon Fry, Jesse Ramsey, Walter Cannady, George Stephenson. Back row - John Allen, Richard Phillips, Edw. Stockebrand, Freeman Martin, Ed Naylor, ---- Richards, Albert Kelley is in front of Stockebrand.

* * * * *

This picture was taken on the west steps of the old Washington School. Yates Center had played LeRoy on the Y. C. grounds. The following sketch was written by one who just signed "By a Spectator," and appeared in the October 1906 issue of "The Center", published by the students of the Yates Center Public Schools.

"In a hotly contested game on the Yates Center field the Yates Center football team defeated the LeRoy team by a score of 4 to 0. We, of course, are sorry for the LeRoy but we just had to beat them. The features of the game were the safety played by Patterson and the tackle smashes made by Martin and Phillips in which gains were made. Patterson made a great many gains through the LeRoy lines.

The winning features of the game was made by Martin. It was a goal from the field made by a drop kick from the 25 yard line which was the only score made on either side. Our full back Stockebrand was always gaining and little quarterback Kelley played his position well.

May 25, 1875 —

"Cows wanted-I want to hire by the month, 30 cows for cheese making; will pay cash rent monthly or oftener and will keep a good bull in the herd. Call or address Samuel Naylor, Byron, Woodson County, Kansas.

June 2, 1875 —

"Eph Beardon, recently spayed twelve head of yearling and 2-year old heifers for Mr. Pribinow, who lives on Owl Creek. And we learn they are doing nicely. Spayed animals make much better beef as they take on fat more readily and grow larger. They also make good work cattle. (Eph Beardon was one of the much respected Negroes who lived and reared a family among some of the early settlers of Neosho Falls.)

"Neosho Falls - Another big outfit went through this city Friday. They had one mule team, while the remaining wagons', seven or eight in number were drawn by oxen and cows. They were from Arkansas and headed for Washington Territory.

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Our cover picture is a portion of a stone wall fence that were very common fences in parts of Woodson County during the settling of the county. The stone in these fences were usually picked up on the prairie mostly on the farm where the fence was built. This was hard tedious work, but in some cases was the only means of fence the settler could afford.

This particular fence pictured is still standing in the southeast corner of Woodson County. The bottom part of the wall fence is about three feet wide with a double row of rock, tapering to about a foot wide at the top of the four or five foot fence. The top layer is set on edge and leaning to better stay.

Most of these old stone fences are all gone. One reason was the upkeep especially after the wall began to topple or crumble. Wire fences were much easier to build and maintain.

The fence pictured is in the south west corner of the southwest quarter of section 27, Twp. 26, R. 17.

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The October, 1975 issue of In The Beginning, will have stories about different pioneer families of the county, including Lucian Thrall, Neosho Falls, John Pringle, Abe Smith and other that includes some early history about Piqua, Kalida and Toronto.

NORTH TOWNSHIP - WOODSON COUNTY —

When the County Supervisors or Commissioners, met at Neosho Falls, on August 17, 1858, they proceeded to lay out five townships for Woodson County. These townships were named Neosho Falls, Owl Creek, Belmont, Verdigris and Liberty.

At that time Liberty was bounded as the largest township in the county, taking in the entire northwest part of the county. This township consisted of over one fourth of the acreage of the county, but consisted mostly of high prairie, making it also the least populated part of the county.

Several attempts were made by different railroad companies to establish and build a railway across the north part of the county. People in the west part of Liberty seemed to object when in 1886 the township was called on to vote bonds for the Chicago, Kansas and Western Railroad Company to cross the southern part of the township and a petition was circulated to divide the township.

The June 6, 1886 issue of the Yates Center News carried this item: "Liberty is in a duece of a stew at this time over the question of railway bonds and municipal partition. The election is called for the 6th of July, while the commissioners will meet on the 11th of the same month to take action on the petition of the west side of the new township.

Special election on railway bonds for the Chicago, Kansas and Western Railroad Company. When the said railroad company shall have or have caused to have built and have in operation and with cars running thereon by lease or otherwise by said railroad by the Southern Kansas Rail road at or near Colony, Kansas, to a point at or within 100 rods of the southeast corner of section 7-24-15 on or before 31st of December, 1886. Provided that before the above mentioned sum of $15,000 of bonds are issued the said Chicago, Kansas and Western Railroad shall establish a depot and station with all necessary facilities for passenger, freight and express traffic, with stock yards and the necessary side tracks at a point within 100 rods of southeast corner of section 7-24-15, in said township. (That corner would be six miles north and three west of Yates Center.) Special election to be held on July 6, 1886, at the usual voting places in Liberty township.

Another item in the Yates Center News soon after this carried this news; "Amasa Rose, F. H. Spencer and Bob Currie were so happy over the results of Tuesday's bond election in Liberty. Their report of 307 votes cast was the largest ever known in the history of the township. The bonds were defeated by a majority of 18 votes."

E. W. Naylor, one of the first officers of the new township, years later wrote that the bond issue was defeated and the township divided through a misunderstanding.

"On Tuesday, the 8th of October, 1886 the county commissioners divided Liberty township as follows; Commencing at the southeast quarter of section 36, Twp. 24, R. 14, running north to the northeast corner of section 12, thence west one mile, thence north to the county line. All territory west of this line to be known as Independence township. The voting place will be schoolhouse Dist. 57. (Keck) Officers for the new township will be elected at the regular election in November."

"This settles a 'family' quarrel and we hope the people will be satisfied." The above article was taken from the Yates Center News.

We never found out what became of "Independence Township" as named by the Woodson County Commissioners for in January of 1887, a leather-bound treasurer record used by the new township board had the name of North Township engraved on its corner. However the county commissioners evidently appointed a board before the November election for on October 30, 1886, the following men met to conduct some business; J. W. Pace, trustee, E. W. Naylor, Clerk; and George Carpenter, treasurer.

The first elected board of north township was E. W. Naylor, trustee; John W. Pace, clerk, and J. W. Maclaskey, treasurer. J. W. Morgan was the first road overseer for the new township.

While north township was the "baby township" in the order established it became the "giant" in wealth as oil fields were developed over the township. The majority of the acreage in the township is bluestem pasture some of the best grazing land in Kansas.

North township consists of 40,000 acres with around 7,000 acres of tillable land, mostly upland. The other 33,000 acres being hay and pasture land. A small amount around 1,000 acres being in timber and blackjack oak. The 1939 assessed valuation of the township was $18 per acre.

In 1887 there were no piano's, seven other musical instruments, pleasure carriages- 12 with average value of $13.75. There were 6,994 head of sheep, 287 horses, 25 mules. In 1891 there were 3109 sheep, 423 horses and 30 pleasure carriages.

PATRONS OF THE WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

John V. Glades Agency
Woodson County Coop
State Exchange Bank
Street Abstract Co., Inc.
Schornick Oil Co.
Self Service Grocery
Krueger's Variety
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beine
Hi-Way Foodbasket
Piqua Farmers Coop
Gualding Oil Co.
Morton Equipment Co.
Swope & Son Implement Co.
Campbell Plumbing & Electric
Clyde Hill
Cantrell Buick-Pontiac
Paul C. Laidlaw
Roger Brothers Garage
Charles H. Carpenter
Newtex Manufacturing Co.
J. C. Schnell
Smith Furniture & Funeral Home
Superior Building Supply, Inc.
Glenn Shaw
Pringle Ranch-J. W. & J. Richard
W. K. Stockebrand
Security Oil Co.
Woody's Cafe
Kimbell Ranch-Ed Kimbell
Bill Herman
Edwin H. Bideau Associate
Agencies, Chanute

Al's Jewelry
First National Bank, Toronto
Blackjack Cattle Co.
Yates Center Elevator
Jasper's Shopping Spot
Bill Taylor-Gen. Agent
Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Atkin Clinic
Daly Western Supply
Pyeatte-Jaynes Ins. Agency
Dyer Chevrolet
Linde Barber Shop
House of Fabrics
Brown's Western Auto
Donald E. Ward
Wilma Mark
Milton Wrampe
Gamble's Friendly Store
E. E. Light
Yates Center News
Everybody's Grocery
Baker Rexall Drug Store
Yates Center Skelgas Service
Campbell Furniture & Undertaking
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Baker
Piqua State Bank
McGinty-Coffman Dept. Store
E. Guy Reid
J & W Manufacturing Co.
Wendall McMurray